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FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1930
INFO RUEHBS/AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS 4566
RUEHRL/AMEMBASSY BERLIN 0423
RUEHMD/AMEMBASSY MADRID 2179
RUEHHE/AMEMBASSY HELSINKI 0270
RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME 0364
RUEHVI/AMEMBASSY VIENNA 0257
RUEHTC/AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE 3766
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 0273
RUEHCP/AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN 3029
RUEHNY/AMEMBASSY OSLO 2397
RUEHWR/AMEMBASSY WARSAW 2368
RUEHPG/AMEMBASSY PRAGUE 0954
RUEHUP/AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST 0071
RUEHSF/AMEMBASSY SOFIA 0473
RUEHBM/AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST 0390
RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA 0141
RUEHTH/AMEMBASSY ATHENS 0083
RUEHLI/AMEMBASSY LISBON 0172
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 0448
RUEHRK/AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK 0075
RUEHTL/AMEMBASSY TALLINN 2305
RUEHVL/AMEMBASSY VILNIUS 2006
RUEHLE/AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG 0949
RUEHRA/AMEMBASSY RIGA 0852
RUEHSL/AMEMBASSY BRATISLAVA 0114
RUEHLJ/AMEMBASSY LJUBLJANA 0196
RUEHKH/AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM 0013
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 000368

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FOR EUR/PGI M COOK AND S/WCI AMBASSADOR WILLIAMSON

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/05/2017

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [PINR](#) [KAWC](#) [PTER](#) [XG](#) [SW](#)

SUBJECT: SWEDEN SAYS NO TO ACCEPTING GUANTANAMO DETAINEES

REF: A. STOCKHOLM 315

[1](#)B. STATE 36991

[1](#)C. STATE 37005

[1](#)D. STATE 43389

[1](#)E. STOCKHOLM 366

[1](#)F. STOCKHOLM 312

Classified By: Polcouns Casey Christensen, reason 1.4 (b) and (d).

[1](#)1. (c) MFA Political Director Olof Skoog told Polcouns 4/5 that the GoS had carefully considered but could not agree to the U.S. request to accept Guantanamo detainees (refs A-D). Skoog said the request had been reviewed by all relevant elements of the Swedish government, and there were compelling reasons Sweden could not accede to the request. Sweden was experiencing a tremendous surge in asylum seekers, particularly from Iraq (refs E, F). He said that in 2006, Sweden had taken in 9,000 Iraqi asylum seekers, half of the total going to EU states. This year, the GoS was projecting 25,000 from Iraq -- and this number would be increased by later family unifications. This was putting a tremendous strain on the budget.

[1](#)2. (c) Skoog also noted legal and technical difficulties regarding the request. The Swedish Migration Board was an independent agency; the GoS could not take decisions on granting residence permits. Intervening politically in this process would be difficult. Sweden had already set its

resettlement quota for the year and was focusing on burden-sharing arrangements with countries that were undergoing refugee surges, such as Burmese entering Thailand, or Iraqis in Syria and Jordan. This created substantial "bureaucratic" impediments to considering a request from the U.S.

¶3. (c) Skoog added that an additional impediment -- security -- had not been considered by the GoS in connection with this request because specific names were not provided, but security considerations would render Sweden's acceptance of any Guantanamo detainees even more difficult. This had been, Skoog noted, a determining factor in denying our prior request for Sweden to accept two Uighur detainees from Guantanamo.

¶4. (c) Comment: Skoog was at pains to make the "no" answer clear, while justifying the GoS position by noting how Sweden is doing its share and more in dealing with other resettlement effects of the conflicts in Iraq and elsewhere.
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